



STATE OF DELAWARE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
2320 SOUTH DUPONT HIGHWAY
DOVER, DELAWARE 19901
AGRICULTURE.DELAWARE.GOV

MICHAEL T. SCUSE
SECRETARY

TELEPHONE: (302) 698-4500
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Respondent:

Grass Roots Inc.
P.O. Box 7680
Wilmington, DE 19803

Violations:

§1224(a)(3) –Engaging in the business of applying a pesticide on the lands of another without having a license granted by the Department.

Penalty:

Respondent signed a consent agreement in August 2022. In the agreement, Respondent agrees to the imposition of disciplinary sanctions which included a civil penalty of \$840.00

STIPULATED FACTS

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1. Grass Roots Inc. (“Respondent”) is a commercial pesticide applicator business with an office located at P.O. Box 7680, Wilmington, DE 19803. Respondent does not have a valid pesticide business license issued by the Delaware Department of Agriculture (“Department”). The business license associated with the respondent is listed as expired on 12/31/2021 in the pesticide section salesforce database.
2. Steve Quillen (“Quillen”) is the owner of Grass Roots Inc. At the time of the inspection Mr. Quillen’s certification (94-976) had expired on 12/31/2021.
3. David Quillen is employed by Respondent. Mr. David Quillen is listed as a registered service employee in the pesticide section salesforce database.
4. Nicolas Rico (“Rico”) is employed by Respondent. Mr. Rico is not listed as a certified applicator or a registered service employee in the pesticide section salesforce database.
5. The Pesticide Section of the Department (“Complainant,”) is bringing this enforcement action against Respondent. Emmanuel Sempeles, (“Sempeles”), is employed as an Environmental Scientist II with the Department.



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6. On June 9th, 2022, Sempeles noticed a worker using a backpack sprayer on a flower bed located in the Chestnut Hill Plaza in Newark Delaware. Sempeles presented his credentials and notice of inspection to Mr. Rico and explained the Pesticide Law and requirements. Mr. Rico showed Sempeles the Roundup concentrate bottle located in the service vehicle. Mr. Rico then gave the phone number of David Quillen and told Sempeles to call him.
7. Sempeles spoke to Mr. David Quillen on the phone and notified him about the expired Pesticide business license and explained that Mr. Rico was not a registered service employee. Mr. Quillen stated that he would take care of the license as soon as possible. Sempeles issued a cease and desist to the respondent.
8. Photographs of the employee using the backpack sprayer were taken. A photograph of the service vehicle with the respondent's company name was also taken during the inspection.
9. Delaware Pesticide Rules and Regulations, Section 4.2 establishes Employee Registration. Section 4.2.1 states in part "Licensees shall register with the Department all employees who handle pesticides. Registration shall be made when making an application for a license or within 45 days after employment."
10. In the past 5 years, Respondent has no violations of the Delaware Pesticide Law.